LITHUANIA

COUNTRY PROFILE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21:
REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1992**

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LITHUANIA

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All statistics are rendered as provided by the respective Governments.

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ACRONYMS

APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International
EMINWA	environmentally sound management of inland water
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GEMS/WATER	Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution
GIPME	Global Investigation of Pollution in Marine Environment (UNESCO)
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
GSP	generalized system of preferences
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAP-WASAD	International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IBSRAM	International Board of Soil Resources and Management
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICPIC	International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IEEA	Integrated environmental and economic accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ICSU)
IGBP/START	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme/Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOTERRA	International Environment Information system (UNEP)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	integrated pest management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ITC	International Tin Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization

ACRONYMS (Cont'd)

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PGRFA	plant genetic resources for agriculture
PIC	prior informed consent procedure
SADCC	South African Development Co-ordination Conference
SARD	sustainable agriculture and rural development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU	United Nations University
WCP	World Climate Programme (WMO/UNEP/ICSU/UNESCO)
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (also called World Wildlife Fund)
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

OVERVIEW

At the time of adoption of Agenda 21 as an action programme for sustainable development in Rio, the economic and social situation in Lithuania mainly resulted from the integration of its economy into the Soviet economic system. It was characterized by ineffective management, by one-sided orientation both to the use of raw materials from the former Soviet Union and to sending final products to the former Soviet market. For these reasons the economic crisis in the former Soviet Union directly affected Lithuania's economy. Lithuania had neither a rational economic structure nor a structure of developed external economic ties.

A direct consequence of Soviet industrial policies was the creation of an economic structure with negative impact on the environment, as all its giant industrial enterprises were lacking treatment facilities. Pollution treatment plants were drown up only after the damage to nature and human health had become clearly evident.

On 11 March 1990, the independent Lithuanian state was restored, followed by great positive changes in social order, the legal system, the economy, agriculture, science, culture and environmental protection.

In searching solutions to the deteriorated state of the environment, the establishment of sound environmental policy and an effective system for its implementation was essential. In developing environmental policy, Lithuania took into consideration standards established by international agreements and conventions, EU directives and requirements. Integration of environment and development is a guiding principle in Lithuania's efforts to reconstruct its economy enabling the attainment of sustainable development.

Lithuania's Environmental Protection Programme developed in 1992 included all major environmental problems of the day highlighting ways of addressing them in priority order. Most of the measures included in the Programme have already been implemented, some are still in the phase of implementation. However, the national economy development policies, economy reconstructuring and the urgency to address some environmental problems have put forward a demand of setting new environmental policy goals and priorities, of selecting most effective ways to achieve them. Therefore, a new programme was worked out in 1995. It is outlined in the Lithuanian Environmental Strategy (adopted by the Parliament in 1996) which addresses both the policy formation issues and actions aimed at attaining the priority objectives.

The effective implementation of the Lithuanian Environmental Strategy Action Programme requires good coordination and feed-back between all involved state, municipal and non-governmental organizations in developing and implementing their action plans.

OVERVIEW (Cont'd)

(You may wish to use pages v and vi to briefly present your national position five years after UNCED)

FACT SHEET

NAME OF COUNTRY:

1. Name of Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s)/Council(s).

The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)

Contact point (Name, Title, Office):

Telephone: **Fax:** **e-mail:**

Mailing address:

2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson:

2a. List of ministries and agencies involved:

2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participating of academic and private sector bodies:

2c. Names of non-governmental organizations involved:

3. Mandate role of above mechanism/council:

Executes the state regulation on the use of natural resources and environmental protection management; coordinates and implements the National Environmental Strategy.

4. If available, attach a diagram (organization chart) showing national coordination structure and linkages between ministries:

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 2: **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES (with special emphasis on TRADE)**

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	Not applicable	
STATUS REPORT: Lithuania is not able to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries because it is one of the countries with economies in transition after 50 years of Soviet occupation and with its own difficult problems in the path of sustainable development.		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Poverty is not a national priority. Unemployment is a major concern.

STATUS REPORT:

- Focus of national strategy

The unemployment rate in Lithuania increased during the past few years which has led to a substantial reduction of living standard in some sectors of society. Some social, educational and labour policy measures are taken to redress the problem. The access to primary health care, clean water and sanitation, and primary education is rather sufficient with some exceptions.

- Highlight activities aimed at the poor and linkages to the environment

No information

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Legislation related to the issue of poverty is covered by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on the Support of the Employed and the Law of State Social Insurance. The Article 48 of the Constitution guarantees the right to work and the right to social security. Every man has the right to get a proper pay for work and social security in the case of unemployment. State social insurance accounts for the largest share of the social security system of the Republic of Lithuania and consists of pension insurance, maternity and sickness insurance, health insurance, and insurance against unemployment and accidents at work. Unemployment insurance contributions must be paid by permanent residents of the Republic of Lithuania, who are employed under employment and other types of contracts, and receiving remuneration.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No information.

3. Major Groups: The major group receiving public assistance is the unemployed. Clients have the opportunity to participate in and influence the planning and execution of social welfare and the assistance provided through social insurance units.

4. Finance: Threatening income differences due to persistent unemployment have been controlled through unemployment insurance schemes. Provision of social welfare in communities is subsidized financially by the state. The amount of unemployment benefit and the procedure and conditions for payment are provided for in Articles 15, 16, 16^1, 17, 18, 19 of the Law on the Support of the Employed of the Republic of Lithuania. Such provisions are made in the Law on Social Security.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
Population (annual average, in 1000)	3,722.3	3,741.7	3,741.7	3,730.2	3,720.8	3,714.8	
Number of unemployed		6,785	66,450	65,467	77,960	127,738	
Unemployment rate (%)		0.36	3.6	3.8	4.5	7.3	
Other data							

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

NATIONAL PRIORITY: No information

STATUS REPORT:

- **National policy objectives/focus**

After restoration of independence of the Republic of Lithuania in 1990, consumers have greater confidence than before in their ability to influence producers and suppliers in environmental matters. On the issue of changing consumption patterns, the following activities have been completed: national seminars/debates on ecological agricultural products, public awareness on consumption/production and its consequences, new legislation encouraging waste reduction and change in consumption patterns, and eco-labelling. In 1995, the main normative documents were prepared for a new function of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)- eco-labelling of production - in order to reduce environmental impact during the whole cycle of product existence (production, packaging, marketing, use, and waste management). Adjusting to the normative documents of the European Union (directives on eco-labelling, waste management, etc.), MEP adopted the Order on Eco-labelling of Products (Nr. 81 of 15/05/1995). By this environmental protection measure MEP attempts to stimulate design, production, marketing and use of the products with the least impact to the environment during the whole life-cycle with producer interest protection and product usability warranty. The Order is applied to all products produced in or imported to Lithuania except food products, beverages and pharmaceuticals, medicines, and chemical materials. The new structure to organize eco-labelling in Lithuania was established in 1996. The main product groups which can be selected for eco-labelling (building materials, ceramics, technological machinery, electrotechnical equipment, paper, textile, leather, fertilizers, and chemical substances) were determined.

- **National targets**

A process of harmonization of national legal acts with the directives and requirements of the European Union just started in Lithuania. Relevant to this chapter, the main attention will be provided to the standards of production (goods) and standards of stationary equipment (process standards).

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The central institutions that focus on the issue of consumption are: the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Department of Statistics and within it, various units. In its consumer information and seminars, both at national and local levels, a promotion of functioning recycling system, minimization of unnecessary consumption, lengthening of the durability and service life of goods in order to reduce the amount of waste, and other consumption related matters are discussed.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No information.

3. Major Groups: No information.

4. Finance: No information.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Lithuania participates in the work of the Baltic Council of Ministers, sometimes the Nordic Council of Ministers, OECD, and UNEP in the area of changing consumer patterns.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1992	1993	1994	1995	
GDP per capita (current US$)	226.25	744.5	1,141	1,496	
Real GDP growth (%)		63.6	34.75	23.7	
Annual energy consumption per capita (Kg. of oil equivalent per capita)	2,390	2,380	2,170	2,370	
Motor vehicles in use per 1000 inhabitants	187	199	212	231	
Other data					

Government policies affecting consumption and production.

1. Goals and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with a (X) those agents which your Governments policies are meant most to influence.

Agents / Goals	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	Households	Civil society
Material efficiency	X				
Energy efficiency:					
Transport		X			X
Housing		X		X	X
Other	X			X	
Waste:					
Reduce	X				X
Reuse	X				
Recycle	X	X			

Comments:

2. Means & Measures and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with an (R) those agents who assume primary responsibility for any of the policy measures indicated; indicate with an (I) the agents for which the impact is expected to be especially significant.

Means & Measures / Agents	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	House-holds	Civil Society
Improving understanding and analysis	X				
Information and education (e.g., radio/TV/press)		R/I	R		I
Research	I	I	R		I
Evaluating environmental claims	I	R	R	I	I
Form partnerships	I	R	R		
Applying tools for modifying behaviour					
Community based strategies		R		I	
Social incentives/disincentives (e.g., ecolabelling)	I		R	I	
Regulatory instruments	I		R	I	
Economic incentives/disincentives	I		R	I	
Voluntary agreements of producer responsibility for aspects of product life cycle	R/I		R	I	
Provision of enabling facilities and infrastructure (e.g., transportation alternatives, recycling)	I	R	R	I	
Procurement policy	I	R	R	I	
Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing performance					
Action campaign	I	R	R	I	
Other (specify)					

Comments:

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	National problem	
STATUS REPORT: For the last five years demographic changes in Lithuania have violated long-term trends and set up a new demographic situation. For the first time in the post-war period the population started to decrease. Besides, population distribution in towns and rural areas is changing in opposite direction: decreasing in towns and increasing in rural areas. At present, most of the families in Lithuania have one or two children. In 1995, 15.2% of children in the families were the third ones and in 1970 they comprised 22.3%. Since the beginning of the 1970s the highest fertility indicators were among women aged 20-24 years. For the last years the fertility indicators decreased in all women fertility groups. Economic regression, housing problems and unemployment are the main reasons for such demographic situation including decrease of births. During 1990-1995 the total fertility indicator dropped down from 2.00 to 1.50. There is as yet no national policy on demographic dynamics and sustainability In the Government's view, population growth and fertility level are too low, Government intervention intents to raise the population growth rate and maintain fertility level.		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** The Ministry of Social Security and Labour (most directly concerned with demographic issues), the Ministry of Health Care, the Migration Department at the Ministry of Interior.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** a) Department of Demography, Lithuanian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology; b) Lithuanian Department of Statistics.

4. **Finance:** Government of Lithuanian Republic, United Nations Population Fund, European Commission, Open Society Fund - Lithuania.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** Many international projects are carried out at the Department of Demography of the Lithuanian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology. The following projects are coordinated by United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, Population Activities Unit (UN/ECE/PAU): 1. Fertility and Family Surveys in Countries of the ECE Region (20 countries take part). 2. Population Related Policies in Countries of the ECE Region (20 countries, project finished in 1994). 3. Reproductive Health in Central and Eastern European Countries (8 countries). 4. Causes and Selected Consequences of Emigration from Central and Eastern Europe (3 countries). 5. The Dynamics of Population Ageing in ECE Countries (more than 20 countries). European Commission coordinates the project "Migration - Europe's Integration and the Labour Force Brain Drain (10 countries). The project "Illegal Transit Migration in Lithuania" is coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1979	1989	1994	1995	1996
Surface area (km²)			65.2		
Population density per 1 km²	52	57	-	57	57
Births per 1000 population	15.4	15.1	11.5	11.1	-
Deaths per 1000 population	-		12.5	12.2	-
Natural increase per 1000 population				-1.1	
Population (Thousands)	3391.5	3674.8	-	3714.8	3711.9
males (thous.)				1754.6	
females (thous.)				1960.2	
Urban population (thous.)				2522.4	
Rural population (thous.)				1192.4	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Very high

STATUS REPORT: The National Health Concept was adopted by the Parliament of Lithuania in 1991, the essence of which is the active strategy and policy of health care. It was based on the principles of the WHO program "Health for All-2000". The Law on the Health System was adopted in 1994. According to the law, the national health system is divided into two parts: individual health care and public health care. Public health care institutions are responsible for public health epidemic, hygienic and sanitary conditions of the environment, health education and promotion. Public health is under the responsibility of the State and municipalities. The state control of public health includes the state control of alcohol, tobacco, narcotic substances, environmental protection as well as the state medical audit. Municipalities maintain sanitary control of the living environment. Individual health care institutions are of three levels: primary, secondary and tertiary. The institution of general practice or family doctor should form the primary health care level. The secondary level provide main specialized in-patient and out-patient medical care. The tertiary health institutions are university and national clinics which provide very specialized in-patient treatment and out-patient consultations and are basic institutions for training of physicians and other health care professionals. The Lithuanian national strategy for health is render discussion. It is expected to be adopted in the nearest future. The national health strategy is based on three key areas: coronary heart diseases and stroke, cancer and trauma. The concepts of health promotion and health education are new in Lithuania. The main priorities for health education on the national level are:

1. prevention of risk factors and promotion of healthy lifestyle;
2. prevention of diseases (coronary heart diseases and stroke, cancer, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases) and trauma.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministry of Health Care is the main body in Lithuania responsible for the protection and promotion of human health.
The reform process began in 1990 and was marked by adoption of a number of legislative acts: the Law on the Reform of State Financed Hospitals (1992), the Law on Pharmaceutical Activities (1991), the Law on the Social Integration of Invalids (1991), the Law on the Health Care (1994), the Law on Mental Health (1995), the Law on Alcohol Control (1995), the Law on Tobacco Control (1996), the Law on Health Insurance (1996). The greatest financial reform of the health care system is expected to begin in 1997, after the Law on Health Insurance has come into force. Main plans are the harmonization of legislative regulations in order to meet the European Union standards.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The National Health Education Centre is the main governmental institution implementing health education on the national level.

3. Major Groups: No information.

4. Finance: The base amount of the financing of health care comes from state and municipal budgets. Each year the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania establishes the amount of funds allocated to health care. Lately, the costs on health care exceeded the Gross Domestic Product by 4%. The funds are allocated through the Ministry of Health (about 30% of costs), through municipalities (55%) and through said insurance (15%).

5. Regional/International Cooperation: The Public Health Surveillance Service was established within the Ministry of Health in 1994. It consists of 11 regional public health centres subordinate to the State Public Health Centre. There is also a National Centre for Health Education. A programme to increase the effectiveness of health education between the years 1996 and 2000 has been prepared by this Centre and Lithuania is a participant in the Healthy Schools Network, and a regional stroke prevention project. The pilot activity was encouraged and surveyed by the UNDP supported Health Care Reform Management Bureau in the Ministry of Health. This Bureau, PHARE and UNDP have facilitated a national debate on the future of the health service.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
	1990	1994	1995
Life expectancy at birth	72.4	68.7	69.3
male			63.6
female			75.2
Urban male	67.6	64.1	65.0
female	76.8	75.6	75.8
Rural male	64.2	60.2	60.8
female	75.1	73.6	74.2
Infant mortality per 1000 live births			12.4
Still-births per 100 births			29.3
Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births			6.98

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Agenda 21 emerged as a result of long lasting efforts of specialists concerned about the way development took in the last century. But awareness of the need of such principles to guide development was there in various human activities far much earlier. There are many examples for that. First steps towards creating post-war settlement structure development in Lithuania were made in early 60-ties, when a nation-wide comparatively evenly dispersed urban centres' structure based on historically developed centres was proposed. In this way sustainability was taken into account not only from the environmental point of view, but also the cultural heritage. After regaining independence in 1990, major changes in spatial planning organisation took place due to the changed status of the country and new/retrieved responsibilities at all levels of administration as well as new ownership relations (private ownership restored). The principle of subsidiarity and decentralisation of decision making is gradually gaining its momentum. The last period (1994-1996) brought changes into the administrative division of the state territory. Former national and local municipal levels were complemented by a regional one (since 1994), based on the inherited structure of urban centres. New challenges, issues and tasks were to be dealt with. The principle of sustainability being the major general principle for all development issues was adopted for guiding the comprehensive national strategic plan of the country (under preparation now). It is meant also for improvement of inter-sectoral co-ordination at the local, regional and national levels. Introducing the regulation on public participation in the planning process (the last one in 1996) contributed to transparency of use of land. It improves also the utilisation of public and private land and responds to the political need of direct public participation in management and development of home and neighbourhood. The law on planning of territories among other goals provides preventive measures to the illegal occupation of land. Abrupt changes from state control to practically full reliance on private initiative in housing issues introduced new trends in settlement development. The State housing programme (July 1992) was especially oriented to investment policy, reduction of energy consumption and improvement of the characteristics of the existing building stock (thermal insulation). This means a general change from extensive use of resources towards a sustainable approach. Growth of population is very slow, which together with reduced industrial production, creates easier conditions in this transition period of the society from an environmental point of view (natural resources, waste, atmosphere; supply of shelter, infrastructure and service). In general, public transport is the main means of transport despite the fast increasing numbers of private cars, which is beneficial to the environment. Recently set technical restrictions to vehicles will serve to minimise negative impacts on the environment in settlements. Engineering infrastructure in Lithuanian settlements still needs improvement, especially inn the case of water treatment (need of modernisation, reconstruction and extension). This is a serious burden on the budget of local municipalities. The protection and rational use of fresh water resources was ensured through comprehensive plans of settlements meeting existing requirements of regulations. Improvements on the general strategy must be made. The Hazardous Waste Treatment State Programme (1993) has envisaged a general system for all the country. A domestic waste dumping system exists, but needs improvement and modernisation. Many national programmes serve for better motivation of settlement development. One of them is the State Programme of use and protection of entrails of earth resources (1994). Creating and maintaining natural sites within the system of urbanised environment and tied up with the system of rural territories gradually helps forming an interrelated settlement and nature structure. By financial means regional policy aims to support balanced living conditions all over the country. A difficulty still is rural settlements under the changed economic conditions of their existence and management.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** The Ministry of Construction and Urban Development is the main coordinator of territorial planning in Lithuania. The coordinators in counties are the chief architects, in regions - municipalities the chief architects services. Territorial planning is regulated by the "Law on Territorial Planning" (1995) and the "Construction Law" (1996).

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** The Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

3. **Major Groups:** The central organizations of municipalities, the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

4. **Finance:** State and municipalities budgets, the means of physical and legal persons.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** Lithuania cooperates with the neighbouring countries through joint single and multinational programmes, agreements, meetings and seminars. Cooperation with the Nordic and Baltic countries including Russia, Belarus and Poland in the field of territorial planning is being provided since 1992 by preparation of multinational project "Vision and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea 2010". The project is under development into document Interreg II. Transborder cooperation between Poland and Lithuania is carried out since 1995 on the basis of the Agreement between the Polish Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning and the Lithuanian Ministry of Construction and Urban Development. There are agreements between the Lithuanian Ministry and corresponding ministries in Finland and Denmark. The activities include exchange of information, technical assistance, provision of legal documents, etc. Cooperation in sustainable housing was established with Nordic countries as well as among countries in Central and Eastern Europe by preparation of housing and urban indicators intended to the United Nation Conference on Human Settlements Habitat II.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS		
	1990	1995
Urban population in % of total population	68.5	67.9
Annual rate of growth of urban population	16.0	-0.27
Largest city population (in % of total population)	15.8	15.5

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

(See pages vii and viii at the beginning of the profile)

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Integrating environment and development in decision - making processes is confirmed by the act of territorial planning adopted in 1995 and the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment which was submitted to the Parliament for consideration as well. Territorial planing is a process necessary for the implementation of integrated national and regional environmental protection policies. The best form of environmental protection is achieved by rational and balanced use of the State's territory. The preparation of a general land management plan for the Republic of Lithuania has started. Lithuania is moving steadily towards these goals, a significant step is the preparation of the country's National Environmental Strategy.

According to the National Environmental Strategy the problems resulting from urbanization could be solved by preparing a land management scheme for Lithuania and its regional administrative units, municipalities and settlements. The NES proposes that town plans are amended to make them relevant to the new social and economic conditions. The main institutions responsible for supporting the implementation of the Action Programme are the municipalities, the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development and MEP.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection executes the State regulation of the use of natural resources and environmental protection management. Other institutions solve problems in the area of their competence. Part of the implementation of the Environmental Protection Act is conducted by local authorities. The MEP will have the leading role in coordinating and implementing the National Strategy.

Considerable rights on environmental protection policy are given to the public in Lithuania. In the 7th article of the Act on Environmental Protection it is foreseen that the public has a right on information on the environmental status and the use of natural resources, information on the environmental impact of planned activities, and other environmental information.

Non - governmental organizations have equal rights as the public (citizens) according to the 7th article of the Environmental Protection Act on "Rights of Citizens and Public Organizations". This rule gives NGOs the right to participate in discussions on environmental protection questions. Participation of NGOs in environmental protection is confirmed by the act of territorial planning adopted in 1995, and the act on EIA which is submitted to the Parliament for consideration. There are 30 contracts written with NGOs which receive special editions with specified environmental information. Organizations and separate bodies (physical as well as juridical) may object the decisions in the administrative law violation cases by environmental protection officials, other decisions and resolutions to the Court.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure (please also refer to the fact sheet): The main principles of environmental legislation are fixed in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (human health protection, protection of the environment from harmful impact), and the Environmental Protection Act of the Republic of Lithuania (sustainable development, environmental integration policy, polluter-pays-principle, precautionary principle, partnership and liability principle, principle of information assessment). The polluter-pays-principle is embodied in the acts on taxes for the State natural resources and taxes for the pollution of environment. The precautionary principle is embodied in the EIA Law which was adopted by the Parliament in August 1996. EIA (including for separate projects) is foreseen in the Act of Environmental Protection (adopted on 21 of January, 1992), the Act of Protected Areas (adopted on 9 of November, 1993), the Construction Act (adopted on 19 of March, 1996), the Act of Territorial Planning (adopted on 12 of February, 1995) and other acts and legal documents. The following laws have been drafted already or are being drafted at present: Waste Management Law; Environmental Impact Assessment Law; Territorial Planning Law: Law of Hazardous Materials and Products: Radiological Safety Law; Fauna Law; Flora Law; Law of Protected Fauna, Flora and Mushroom Species and Communities.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: See STATUS REPORT.

3. Major Groups: MEP is responsible for water consumption and waste water pumping, cleaning of water reservoirs, regulations in advance and issuing of permits, monitoring and planning investments, special planning of the protected territories and protection of the natural environment. The Ministry of Construction and Urbanistic is responsible for territorial planning. The Lithuanian Geology Board is responsible for underground water monitoring. The Ministry of Economics and local authorities are responsible for investment planning.

4. Finance: No information.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: In order to adjust to the normative document of EU (Directives on eco - labelling, waste management, etc.), the MEP adopted " The Order on Eco-labelling of Products" (No 81 from 15/05/1995). Lithuania cooperates with neighbouring countries, e.g. through joint meetings and seminars between the Ministries of Environment. There has also been cooperation between Lithuanian municipalities (Association of Lithuanian Municipalities) and municipalities in Baltic Region countries. Lithuania is taking part in the international project "The Vision and Strategies for the Baltic Sea Region 2010".

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Montreal Protocol was signed in 1994 and ratified in 1995. The London and Copenhagen Amendments have not been signed. The latest report to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat was prepared in 1996.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was signed in 1992 and ratified in 1995. The latest report to the UNFCCC Secretariat was submitted in 1996: National Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The Country Programme on the Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances was developed and adopted in 1995.

In the Republic of Lithuania, an inventory of green-house gases and their absorbents was made in 1995. In 1996, the National Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was developed and adopted by the Lithuanian Republic Government. The Strategy contains concrete measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation to it.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** The following are in charge of protection of the atmosphere:
   - the Environmental Protection Ministry
   - the Ministry of Health.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** In 1992, an Integrated Monitoring System was set up by Nordic and Baltic countries with 3 stations meeting the EMEP standards to monitor air quality, both long-range transboundary air pollution and precipitation. Since 1995, near-to-the-ground ozone concentrations are being measured in 4 stations. In order to monitor air pollution in cities, in early 1995 an Automated Air Pollution Local Observation System was developed with 4 stations, of which 2 are fully automated. In 1997, 2 OPSIS systems will start functioning.
All involved laboratory and field experts have had opportunities of training abroad or being certified. Their training level can be assessed as "very good". Capacities for research and information assessment and exchange can be rated as "good".
An Agreement on Training of Refrigerators Operators signed in 1996 with Sweden.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** So far, no contributions have been made.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** In 1993, Lithuania acceded to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. In 1996, the Baltic Assembly adopted a Resolution on the Co-operation of the Baltic States for the Reduction of Transboundary Pollution. Lithuania participated in the first UNFCCC States Conference in Berlin (1995) and the second conference in Geneva (1996).

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1990	1994	
CO_2-emissions (eq. million tons, energy-related)	42	25	
SO_x (kilo tons)	222	117	
NO_x (kilo tons)	158	77	
CH_4 (kilo tons)	397	379	
Consumption of ODS (Tons)			
Expenditure on air pollution abatement in US$ equivalents (million)			

Other data: In Lithuania there are 3 EMEP transboundary pollution measurement stations.

Note: Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in 1986 amounted to 6090 metric tons.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The planning and management of land resources by the Lithuanian government includes in part the following issues: policy development and policy issues (the National Environmental Protection Strategy), the planning and management of system, raising awareness and promoting public participation (the Law on Environment Impact Assessment which aims to ensure that environmental impacts are taken into account in all planning and decision-making as well as to provide more opportunities for citizens to obtain information and to influence decision-making, came into force in 1996), strengthening information systems, education and training in the integrated approach and strengthening of institutions.

According to the National Environmental Protection Strategy, sustainable planning and management of land resources is implemented through the optimisation of land use management. This strategy foresees that in the area of natural resources and landscape protection there are the medium and short term programmes which consist of separate action plans aiming to achieve the following priority goals in Land Use Management: to improve and optimize the network of protected areas; to prevent further degradation of the natural landscape, especially in protected areas; to prevent further degradation of the environment in urban areas. The action plans are designed to achieve various objectives and one of them is the development of an optimal territorial planning documents' system.

This programme covers measures in the areas of policy, legal and institutional changes, territorial planning, technical measures, research and monitoring, education, training and public awareness. The action programme supports the continuation of existing priorities in landscape protection, especially the preparation of legal and planning documentation for the protected areas.

The planning and management of land resources fully covers international and regional cooperation, scientific understanding of land resources systems and strengthening of technological capacity.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministry of Construction and Urban Development is primarily responsible for the regulation of general (cross-sectoral) territorial planning. The Ministry of Environmental Protection is involved in general territorial planning processes through setting requirements for the preparation of plans, environmental impact assessment and co-ordination of proposals. The Land Management and Biodiversity Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection is responsible for special territorial planning (e.g. planning of protected areas, nature reserves, national and regional planning, managed reserves; planning of the use of natural resources). In the national legislation planning and management of land resources is covered through the Law on Territorial Planning and law documentation. Environmental aspects receive more attention, especially in the preparation of general plans. Land use planning is an important instrument for sustainable development to control construction, engineering, agriculture, forestry etc. Planning of protected areas could be properly integrated into land use planning. One of the outcomes of territorial planning could be the establishment of national or regional ecological infrastructure which could compensate intensive economic activities and provide areas of renewable natural resources and areas of refuge for wildlife. A very important task in the formation of the land use structure is the development of an optimal territorial planning document's system.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Vilnius University, Institute of Architecture and Construction, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vytautas Magnus University, Institutes of Botany, Geography and Ecology.

3. Major Groups: The following major groups are important to the sustainable planning and management of land resources: State, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, scientists and technologists.

4. Finance: The main sources of funding for the implementation of the National Environmental Protection Strategy are: state budget, budgets of municipalities, state and municipalities nature funds, foreign funds (see below).

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Within the framework of bilateral development cooperation, Lithuania is supported for various programmes and projects:

- Special attention is given to training activities in the field of land use planning and projects with aspects relevant to land resources management.
- Preparation of Planning Scheme for Nemunas Delta Regional Park, Denmark.
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Projects, PHARE.
- Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation, PHARE.
- Preparation and Implementation of Kurðiø Lagoon Management Plan, HELCOM, Denmark.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

NATIONAL PRIORITY: High

STATUS REPORT: Forests are one of the principal Lithuanian natural resources. Forests occupy almost 1/3 of the country's territory. State forest ownership prevails in Lithuania. At present, private forest and forest due to privatisation make up 16.7%. It is estimated that after the land reform the private forest sector will cover 1/3 of the forests. Lithuanian policy of forest use is based on the principles of sustainable and multiple-use management and conservation of forest resources. It is expected that in the nearest future the share of forestry and forest industry in GNP can reach 7.5-10%. Annual harvesting foreseen until the year 2003 is 5.1 mill.m^3. The average annual increment per hectare is 6.3 m^3 while the average annual drain (removals) makes up 3.2 m^3 per hectare. In rather big part of the forest (27%), due to the environmental requirements (protection of biodiversity, protective functions of forests etc.) restrictions to the forest management are applied. In commercial forests management activities have very small restrictions, however, general silvicultural and ecological requirements should be followed. While carrying out harvesting and other silvicultural operations environmentally sound and economically viable technologies are being introduced on a broader scale. According to the Lithuanian Forestry Act (1994) cutting areas are reforested within two years after final felling. All silvicultural measures are aimed at the establishment of productive and resistant stands, protection of biologic and genetic diversity in forests. While carrying out reforestation, planting is successfully combined with natural forest regeneration. About 1/3 of cutting areas are left for natural regeneration. Mixed plantations are planted in bigger part of cutting areas. Lithuania is actively taking part in the pan-European process for the implementation of Strasbourg (1990) and Helsinki (1993) resolutions aimed at sustainable forest management and protection of forest resources.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1995
Forest area (thousand hectares)	1,976.0
Forest area as % of total area	30.1
Commercial force (%)	73.0
Total growing stock volume (mln.m^3)	351.8
Total annual increment (mln.m^3)	11.9
Total annual felling (mln.m^3)	6.0
Roundwood production (mln.m^3)	5.97
Roundwood export (mln.m^3)	1.769
Ownership structure:	
state forest (%)	84.3
private forest (%)	15.7

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Since the restoration of Lithuania's independence, most attention in the forestry sector has been paid to the establishment of a new legal framework. In 1994, the Lithuanian Parliament adopted a new Forestry Law. Following the Law, during 1994-1996 many relevant rules and regulations were issued. While combining silvicultural, environmental and economical requirements, Regulations on Forest Use in Nature Protected Areas have been prepared. Therefore, the establishment of a forestry legislation system practically has been completed. The Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Lithuania is primarily responsible for the forestry sector. Other ministries and institutions actively involved in forestry matters are the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the State Forest Inspection, the Lithuanian Agricultural Academy, the Center of Forestry Economics, and the Forest Management Planning Institute.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Lithuania is further developing its institutional structures. It is worth mentioning that despite the structural changes that occurred during the last five years, the amount of employees in the Lithuanian forestry sector has not decreased. In 1995 over 16,000 employees were working in the Lithuanian forestry sector, some 75 foresters graduate each year.

3. Major Groups: The following major groups are important to sustainable forestry: State and local authorities, Non-Governmental Organizations, Scientists, Youth.

4. Finance: A self-financing principle has been implemented in the Lithuanian forestry sector which is very important at the given movement. All forestry operations are financed from the Forest Fund. The formation of this Fund is defined in the Forestry Law. Regulations on Forest Fund Formation and Use were approved by the Government in 1995. The Forest Fund consists of: incomes from the sold non-cut forest, secondary use of forest, from forest area rented for hunting, from sold forestry and hunting production etc. In general, the Forest Fund is a part of the State financial resources used for forestry development. At present it creates good preconditions for forestry functioning in comparison with other industries. However, it is clear that it will not be enough in the future and forestry (especially silvicultural operation) has to be subsidized from the State budget.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Recently the cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations considerably increased. Since 1992 the cooperation with the Swedish company Jaakko Poyry Consulting AB has been going on. This year the IVth stage of the Forest Sector Development Programme is being carried out. It covers 6 subprojects and is aimed at implementation and training of regional forest authorities, detailed design and implementation of a national forest inventory, a wood measurement system, training in and implementation of a grading system for wood, training and implementation of an operations improvement programme at forest enterprises, and vocational training of sawmill workers. This project is financed by the Swedish Government through Sida (Swedish International Development Agency). PHARE is financing the Dubrava Nursery Modernization Project which is carried out by the Danish company Hedeselskabet. Very important technical assistance was received from the Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy. Besides the mentioned projects of technical assistance, bilateral cooperation between institutions is very important for transfer of information and exchange of know-how. Lithuanian forestry institutions have established good contacts with foreign partners.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Not applicable

STATUS REPORT:

The International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa has not been signed or ratified.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

There are no deserts or areas in danger of becoming deserts in Lithuania.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** Not applicable.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Not applicable.

3. **Major Groups:** Not applicable.

4. **Finance:** Not applicable.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** Not applicable.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1980	1990	Latest 199_	
Land affected by desertification (Km^2)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	Not applicable	
STATUS REPORT: There are no mountain areas in Lithuania. The highest point in Lithuania is Juozapinės hill with 293.6 meters.		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** Not applicable.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Not applicable.

3. **Major Groups:** Not applicable.

4. **Finance:** Not applicable.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** Not applicable.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	Very high	
STATUS REPORT: Agriculture has gone through several periods of historic development when due to land reforms its structure changed by a proportionate increase or decrease of specific land use groups. Currently Lithuania is undergoing another land reform changing the Soviet-type land use structure into one based upon small privately owned plots. Intensive economic, primarily construction activities cause a decrease in the total area of natural and semi-naturals territories, spelt up landscape degradation and changes in its structure. The same tendencies can be observed in protected areas. Human activities causing degradation and destruction processes in addition with erosion caused by water and wind, are resulting in degraded, medium - level or heavily destroyed soils which account for over 1.6 percent of the country area. According to the strategy approved for the environmental protection and climatic changes, the "pilot model" environmental protection programme was started in some regions, i.e. the Karst region of the Northern Lithuania. In accordance with this programme the restructuring of farms from conventional to sustainable use is going on, sustainable or bio-organic farming is being carried out. The National Agricultural Development Programme approves the environmental protection investment programme in the Karst region. The "model" programme, i.e. the programme of ground water protection from pollution and the programme for the intensive development of ecologically clear agriculture in the Karst zone are aimed to discontinue the point and non-point pollution by the methods beneficial for economic entities. The "model" programme will be implemented by the Tatula Foundation, established by farmers, food processing enterprises, companies and other economic entities. The concepts of bio-organic farming, the procedures for ratification and control (only the organization that received the accreditation from the Standardisation Department may certify and control) are clarified in the Law on the State Regulation of Agricultural Economic Relations.		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministry of Agriculture is primarily responsible for agriculture and rural development in Lithuania. The national legislation covering agriculture and rural development consist of the following laws: 1. the Land Law; 2. the Law on the Land Reform; 3. the Law on the State Regulation of Agricultural Economic Relations.

The Environmental Protection Ministry is responsible for environmental protection of agriculture. This protection is based on several legislation as well as voluntary measures taken by farmers and advisory services. Loading of surface and ground water is regulated by legislation on the use of protective zones of water bodies.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No specific information.

3. Major Groups: No specific information.

4. Finance: The system of compensation for carrying out environmental measures is formulated in the Karst area of Lithuania by the fund "Tatula". No compensation system is relevant in other regions of Lithuania yet. Financial support of foreign countries for projects on environmental protection of agriculture and farmers education exists (see Regional/International Cooperation).

5. Regional/International Cooperation: As part of the activities linked with the membership in HELCOM, the implementation of recommendations concerning measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from agriculture is one of the main goals of environmental protection. Lithuania has financial and methodical support from Sweden and Denmark concerning pesticides handling, farmers education, implementation of GAP (good agriculture practice) and environmental monitoring in small catchment basins.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
	1989	**1993**	
Agricultural land (Km^2)	32,890	32,860	
Agricultural land as % of total land area	50.6	50.6	
Agricultural land per capita			
	1990	**1992**	
Consumption of fertilizers (kg/Km^2 of agricultural land as of 1990)	19,500	4,300	
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY: very high

STATUS REPORT:

The Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified in 1995.

Confirming to Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Lithuania has made the National Action Plan for Biological Diversity Conservation. At the end of 1996, the action plan was revised to include proposals on coastal and marine biodiversity.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora has not been ratified.

Convention on Wetlands of Internationale Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitats (Ramsar Convention)

Lithuania accessed the Convention in 1993. The Lithuanian Ramsar Sites are implemented in national legislation through Executive Order No 408 of 25 May 1994.

Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention).

Convention has come into force in 1980, is prepared to be ratified in Lithuania. The Lithuanian legislation on land use, landscape protection and activities in terrestrial - local marine ares is compatible with the obligations set out in the Convention.

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

The Bern Convention was ratified by the Lithuanian Parliament in 1996. It is not yet possible to make full evaluation on wether the Lithuanian landscapes, populations and species protection is compatible with the obligations set out in the Convention. The Red List of protected species was published in 1991 and will be revised in 2000.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The National Environmental Strategy of Lithuania was prepared in 1996, and conservation of biota resources and landscape protection was included in this document as a separate part. The National Action Plan for Biological Diversity Conservation was the next step issuing from the National Environmental Strategy to solve biodiversity conservation problems and a concrete program for practical implementation of the Rio Convention. By the end of 1996 the National Strategy for Biological Diversity Conservation and the Report will be prepared.

The most valuable complexes, ecosystems and fragments of Lithuanian nature are protected in 5 National Parks, 30 Regional Parks, 4 strict nature reserves and 300 managed reserves of different types. There are 728,042 ha of especially protected areas in Lithuania and this makes 11,1% of the total territory.

The aim of protecting diversity of nature is to preserve and in some cases to restore the unique diversity of ecosystems, biotopes, organisms and their populations. The current Lithuanian Red Book describes 501 rare or vanishing animals, plants and fungi species.

The Red Data Book of Communities (prepared for publication) will include 59 association communities out of 120 existing in Lithuania.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: On State level the Ministry of the Environment is responsible for biodiversity. It shares the responsibility with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Environmental Protection Ministry includes: the Land Management and Biodiversity Department; 8 Regional Departments; 4 Strict Nature Reserves: Kurðiø Nerija National Park, Regional Parks. The Ministry of Agriculture includes: the State Park Division, 9 Regional Parks; 3 National Parks. Ministry of Agriculture - Fund "Fatula".

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: There are 6 different scientific research institutes ; 2 project management institutes ; 9 NGOs.

3. Major Groups: No information.

4. Finance: The main sources of funding for the implementation of the Action Plan for Biological Diversity Conservation are: the State budget, budgets of municipalities, state and municipalities's nature funds, foreign funds, private money, etc. Financial resources to cover all the objectives of the National Biodiversity Research Programme have been strictly limited. During the last two years (1994 /95) 200.000 Lt (US$50.000) were allocated to the acquisition of nature conservation areas. In Lithuania there is no fund for compensation for landowners yet.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Lithuania participates in biodiversity projects. The National Environmental Protection Strategy was financed by PHARE and was approved by Parliament in 1996. The Biodiversity Strategy is financed by the World Bank and will be prepared by the end of 1996. The Landscape and Biodiversity Protection Programme is financed by PHARE.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1995	Latest 199_	
Protected area as % of total land area	11.1		
	1990	**1996**	
Ratio between natural and urbanized territories/ha/ (according to the data of Lithuanian Land Fund)		7,93	
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 16: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	satisfactory	

STATUS REPORT: The largest part of the biotechnology potential in Lithuania was created in the 1960s and 1970s with the foundation of the biology institutes of the Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Applied Enzymology "Fermentas" (recently the name was changed to Institute of Biotechnology) and with launching the plants for technological production of enzymes of the modern biotechnology. There are over 16 factories and institutes in all (with production facilities) involved in manufacturing of the products of classical biotechnology and 4 in modern biotechnology. The total number of employees is about 2,000. The number of active scientific personnel (including research and development) involved in biotechnology, is about 400. Consequently, biotechnology as a branch of industry and R&D has accumulated a certain production basis and numerous scientific personnel. The analysis of the structure of industrial production reveals that the amounts of products manufactured in food industry (yeast, ethanol, vinegar, beer) in Lithuania is less than enough for home consumption. At the same time, enzyme preparation both for technological and pure grade as well as preparations for medical use are produced for export and their need in Lithuania makes not more than 10 - 20 % of the production volume. Recent political and economic changes create a new situation in Lithuania. It could be predicted that some of the biotechnology potential will be unavoidably lost. One possible way to cope with arising problems might be the deeper involvement of Lithuania's biotechnology in the world cooperation. For this reason it is important to prepare the laws and regulations according to the European standards.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter: At present there are two enterprises which produce products of modern biotechnology - the Institute of Biotechnology "Fermentas" and the joint stock company "Biota". "Fermentas" produces about 400 different products and has distributors in 21 countries. Annual turnover is about US$1.5 million. "Biota" produces high quality human medicines and diagnostic products. Annual turnover is about US$1.0 million.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Development of legislation and policies related to environmentally sound management of biotechnology are in primary stage only. Health, food and drugs are controlled by the Ministry of Health Care, the State Specialized Center of Hygiene and the National Nutrition Center. The Law of Health Protection was adopted by Parliament in 1994. The Ministry of Environmental Protection is responsible for releases to the environment in the country. Partially the Ministry of Health Care and the Ministry of Agriculture are also involved. The Law of Environmental Protection was adopted by Parliament in 1992. This Law included the regulations for manipulation, multiplication and utilization of microorganisms. The additional rules "Procedure for registration, use, storage, introduction and transportation of microorganisms and other sources of biological pollution" were confirmed in 1993. The Government of Lithuania confirmed new rules:

The "Procedure to register means for chemical and biological protection of plants" and "Rules for chemical commission for state protection of plants" in 06/03/1996. There are no special rules concerning use and introduction of recombinant plants and animals. The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Biochemical Research Ethic" is under confirmation of the Parliament. Each biotechnology institution in Lithuania has Regulations which are prepared according to the laws valid in Lithuania and EEC recommendations (Council Directive Commission of the European Communities on the protection of workers from risk related to exposure to biological agents at work : 80/1107/EEC, 88642/EEC, 90/679/EEC, 93/88/EEC).

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No information.

3. Major Groups: No information.

4. Finance: No information.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Though the Scientific Advisory Committee has not been officially confirmed in Lithuania yet, the organization of the Advisory Committee on Genetic Manipulation has started its activities since 1996 on the basis of the Society of Genetics and Breeders of Lithuania. International and regional cooperation on safety in biotechnology would help to prepare and adopt the full value regulation according to international standards. Lithuania joined the ROCEED.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea has not been signed or ratified.

See also the attached tables on the next pages.

The whole Lithuania's territory is within the Baltic Sea catchment area. About 80 % of the Kurðiø Lagoon and 45% of the Baltic Sea coastal waters are heavily polluted with nitrogen and phosphorus. Often, particularly during algae blooming, oxygen deficit resulting in mass fish deaths is observed. The Nemunas basin rivers' as well as the Kurðiø Lagoon water mass impact upon the Baltic Sea can be easily traced at a radius of 10 to 15 km from the Klaipëda Straits. During the hot days of summer season the sanitary status of the beaches of Klaipëda, Giruliai and Palanga is below standards.

Domestic waste waters in cities, with the exception of Panevëþys, Vilnius and Marijampolë, are discharged into rivers, only mechanically treated or after insufficient biological treatment; in Kaunas City waste waters are totally untreated. After biological waste water treatment is introduced in Klaipëda, Ðiauliai, Palanga and the waste water treatment plant in Kaunas starts operating it can be expected that only 1% of waste water will remain untreated. Therefore, construction of waste water treatment facilities remains the highest priority for investments, particularly for funds from State budget, and loans and subsidies received by the State. Alongside, it is necessary to implement measures for the reduction of non-point source pollution of surface waters, and develop the necessary water protection laws.

The management structure of the Port of Klaipëda has been fundamentally reorganized. Container and oil terminals are under reconstruction. The period of implementation of the projects of the port modernisation is 1996-2000.

Since June 1993 Lithuania uses a "sanitary fee" which depends on the volume of ships. The taxes for the volume of wastes are used when a ship goes to the repairing enterprise and is able to deliver wastes. The capacity of two liquid oily waste treatment plants are sufficient for the needs of the Port of Klaipëda.

Lithuania is participating in the implementation of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme of the HELCOM. The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project is being carried out for Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland with financial support of the EU PHARE Programme since 1996.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development and local governments are in charge of integrated coastal area management.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Lithuania applies the best available technology to identify pollution of the marine environment. The problems are with the means for fixing of oil spills (aerial control).

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** Lithuania cooperates at the international level in addressing the prevention, reduction and control of the degradation of the marine environment from land- and sea-based activities, and in integrated coastal zone management as well. The Helsinki Commission, the Baltic Sea Fishery Commission, WWF as the main international organizations should be noted. There is a good cooperation with the ministries and other institutions of the neighbour countries - Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

Direct discharges into the Baltic Sea from land-based sources (metric tons):	**1991**	**1995**
Organic pollutants according to BOD_5	637.1	225.4
Releases of phosphate	72.3	33.0
Releases of nitrate	667.6	387.0
Oil	9.1	3.5

Waste water discharges into surface waters in Lithuania	**1992**	**1995**
Total amount of waste water discharges	366.3	303.8
Treated to meet the standards	95.6	77.9
Treated insufficiently	201.0	171.8
Untreated	69.7	54.1

	1991	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995**
Catches of fish (metric tons) in the Baltic Sea	12,101	9,865	7,524	9,975	12,401

Chapter 17 (Oceans) Continued:

Check the boxes in the column below left:

For level of importance use:

*** = very important

** = important

* = not important

N = not relevant

Check the boxes in the column below right:

For level of implementation use:

*** = fully covered

** = well covered - gaps being addressed

* = poorly covered

O = not covered

N = not relevant

TABLE I. THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS AND THEIR RESOURCES.

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
xxx	a. Preparation and implementation of land and water use and siting policies.	xx
xxx	b. Implementation of integrated coastal and marine management and sustainable development plans and programmes at appropriate levels.	xx
xxx	c. Preparation of coastal profiles identifying critical areas including eroded zones, physical processes, development patterns, user conflicts and specific priorities for management.	xx
xxx	d. Prior environmental impact assessment, systematic observation and follow-up of major projects, including systematic incorporation of results in decision-making.	xxx
xxx	e. Contingency plans for human induced and natural disasters.	xxx
xxx	f. Improvement of coastal human settlements, especially in housing, drinking water and treatment and disposal of sewage, solid wastes and industrial effluents.	xx
xxx	g. Periodic assessment of the impacts of external factors and phenomena to ensure that the objectives of integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and marine environment are met.	xxx
xxx	h. Conservation and restoration of altered critical habitats.	xx
xxx	I. Integration of sectoral programmes on sustainable development for settlements, agriculture, tourism, fishing, ports and industries affecting the coastal areas.	xx
xxx	J. Infrastructure adaptation and alternative employment.	xx
xxx	K. Human resource development and training.	xx
xxx	L. Public education, awareness and information programmes.	xx
xxx	M. Promoting environmentally sound technology and sustainable practices.	xxx
xxx	N. Development and simultaneous implementation of environmental quality criteria.	xxx

TABLE II. TECHNOLOGY (MARINE ENVIRONMENT)

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
xxx	A. Apply preventive, precautionary and anticipatory approaches so as to avoid degradation of the marine environment, as well as to reduce the risk of long-term or irreversible adverse effects upon it.	xx
xxx	B. Ensure prior assessment of activities that may have significant adverse impacts upon the marine environment.	xx
xxx	C. Integrate protection of the marine environment into relevant general environmental, social and economic development policies.	xx
xxx	D. Develop economic incentives, where appropriate, to apply clean technologies and other means consistent with the internalization of environmental costs, such as the polluter pays principle, so as to avoid degradation of the marine environment.	xx
xxx	E. Improve the living standards of coastal populations, particularly in developing countries, so as to contribute to reducing the degradation of the coastal and marine environment.	xx
xxx	F. Effective monitoring and surveillance within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of fish harvesting and transportation of toxic and other hazardous materials.	xx

TABLE III. SEWAGE RELATED ISSUES

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
xxx	A. Sewage related problems are considered when formulating or reviewing coastal development plans, including human development plans.	xxx
xxx	B. Sewage treatment facilities are built in accordance with national policies.	xxx
xxx	C. Coastal outfalls are located so as to maintain acceptable level of environmental quality and to avoid exposing shell fisheries, water intakes and bathing areas to pathogens.	xx
xxx	D. The Government promotes primary treatment of municipal sewage discharged to rivers, estuaries and the sea, or other solutions appropriate to specific sites.	xxx
xxx	E. The Government supports the establishment and improvement of local, national, subregional and regional, as necessary, regulatory and monitoring programmes to control effluent discharge. Minimum sewage effluent guidelines and water quality criteria are in use.	xxx

TABLE IV. OTHER SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS:

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
xxx	A. Established or improved upon, as necessary, regulatory and monitoring programmes to control emissions, including recycling technologies.	xxx
xxx	B. Promoted risk and environmental impact assessments to help ensure an acceptable level of environmental quality.	xxx
xxx	C. Promoted assessment and cooperation at the regional level, where appropriate, with respect to the input of point source pollutants from the marine environment.	xxx
xxx	D. Taken steps to eliminate emissions or discharges of organohalogen compounds from the marine environment.	xx
xxx	E. Taken steps to eliminate/reduce emissions or discharges or other synthetic organic compounds from the marine environment.	x
xxx	F. Promoted controls over anthropogenic inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous that enter coastal waters where such problems as eutrophication threaten the marine environment or its resources.	x
xxx	G. Taken steps to develop and implement environmentally sound land-use techniques and practices to reduce run-off to water courses and estuaries which would cause pollution or degradation of the marine environment.	x
xxx	H. Promoted the use of environmentally less harmful pesticides and fertilizers and alternative methods for pest control, and considered the prohibition of those found to be environmentally unsound.	xx
xxx	I. Adopted new initiatives at national, subregional and regional levels for controlling the input of non-point source pollutants which require broad changes in sewage and waste management, agricultural practices, mining, construction and transportation.	x
xxx	J. Taken steps to control and prevent coastal erosion and siltation due to anthropogenic factors related to, inter alia, land-use and construction techniques and practices.	x

TABLE V. ADDRESSING CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE. IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAMME AREA THE GOVERNMENT IS CARRYING OUT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
xx	A. Coordinating national and regional observation programmes for coastal and near-shore phenomena related to climate change and for research parameters essential for marine and coastal management in all regions.	x
xx	B. Providing improved forecasts of marine conditions for the safety of inhabitants of coastal areas and for the efficiency of marine operations.	x
xx	C. Adopting special measures to cope with and adapt to potential climate change and sea-level rise.	0
N	D. Participating in coastal vulnerability assessment, modelling and response strategies particularly for priority areas, such as small islands and low-lying and critical coastal areas.	N
x	E. Identifying ongoing and planned programmes of systematic observation of the marine environment, with a view to integrating activities and establishing priorities to address critical uncertainties for oceans and all seas.	x
x	F. Research to determine the marine biological effects of increased levels of ultraviolet rays due to the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer.	0
xx	G. Carrying out analysis, assessments and systematic observation of the role of oceans as a carbon sink.	0

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Very high

STATUS REPORT: Located in the excessive humidity zone, Lithuania abounds in water resources: the hydrographic network density is 1 km/1 km2; 2.8 thousand lakes over 0.5 ha are in the country area, total surface being 880 km^2. Annual river water flow - 26.1 km^3/day.

In 1995, fresh water extraction was 4,582 million m^3 (in 1991: 4,510 million m^3), of which 304 million m^3 (580 million m^3) came from ground water resources. Consumption: for municipal/household purposes - 196 million m^3 (369 million m^3), by industry - 49 million m^3 (216 million m^3), energy sector - 4,100 million m^3 (3,295 million m^3), fisheries - 116 million m^3 (216 million m^3). Water consumption decline during recent years is related to the decline of industry, economic restructuring, the taxation system reform (tax for water and polluted waste water discharge has been introduced). Consumption of water by energy sector has grown due to capacity increase of the Hydro Accumulation Station.

With the reduction of pollution loads, water quality in rivers and lakes has somewhat improved. Monitoring by established criteria indicates that in 43% of investigated rivers water was clean, in 48% the water was polluted to medium levels, in 9% it was heavily polluted. River waters are typically polluted with organic and biogenic substances. River water contamination with oil products was 2-3 times beyond standard limits only below major industrial centers. Hydrobiological parameters indicate no significant changes in water quality.

The main sources of surface and ground water pollution are insufficient treatment of municipal and industrial waste water, and non-point source pollution. For water quality improvement, the priority task is municipal and industrial waste water treatment. Of the overall waste water discharges, 61% account for waste water to be treated. As provided in the Lithuanian Environmental Strategy and the Action Programme adopted in 1996, with the introduction of waste water treatment facilities both under construction and to be started, by the year 2000 only 2% of untreated waste water would be discharged into water bodies. Actions for non-point source pollution abatement are foreseen in the Action Programme.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministry of Environmental Protection (with 8 Regional Departments, Hydrographic Network Service, and the Joint Research Center), the Lithuanian Geology Service (under the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development), the Ministry of Health and municipalities.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The Lithuanian Environmental Strategy and the Action Programme foresees training of administrative level specialists, primarily with the assistance of western trainers.

3. Major Groups: The Water Suppliers Association and the Engineering Ecology Association are active in providing proposals to the decision-making level.

4. Finance: For waste water treatment, municipal funds are primarily used, gradually involving loans obtained by municipalities, to be repaid by water supply and waste water treatment services tariffs. At the industrial level, measures for water protection are funded by industries themselves.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Lithuania and Poland have agreed on environmental ministries level to cooperate in monitoring transboundary water bodies in the context of the Convention on the Protection of Transboundary Water Courses. Lithuania and Belarus, on the level of environmental ministries, too, have agreed on exchange of information on the use and protection of transboundary water bodies. In 1996, a trilateral cooperation agreement between the three Baltic States - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - among other issues contains joint efforts in water use and water resources protection.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	1995	
Fresh water availability (total domestic/external in million m^3)	1,168	1,168	1,168	
Annual withdrawal of freshwater as % of available water	22.8	42.8	17.9	
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: The main features of the legal acts on chemical substances are to regulate commercial-economic activities which are connected with production, commerce and storage of hazardous chemical substances by issuing licenses for this kind of activities and issuing permissions for import, export and transit of hazardous chemical substances. In order to reduce the use of particularly harmful chemical substances and to change them to less hazardous, the importance of the introduction of the new technologies, information exchange and public education is emphasised in the legal acts. There is no established mechanism for the management of chemicals in Lithuania. Two very important steps to that direction will be made after the "Law on Chemicals", drafted by the Environmental Protection Ministry and the "Law on the Control of Toxic Substances", prepared by the Health Ministry, will be adopted by the Seimas. Both of them are prepared according to the EU Directives. Requirements for the use of pesticides are set up in the Plant Protection Act of the Republic of Lithuania and in "The regulations on import, transportation, storage, trade, use and treatment of chemical and biological plant protection measures and plant growth regulators". The Memorandum was signed between the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals and the Ministry of Health. The National Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals is under preparation using the data base of IRPTC/UNEP. In 1992, Lithuania acceded to the "Convention on International Civil Aviation" done at Chicago and implements Annex 18 of this convention for the transportation of dangerous goods by air transport. In 1995 our country acceded to the "Convention on the International Marine Organization" and implements the code for the transportation of dangerous goods by sea (IMDG-Code), and to the "European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road" (ADR) and follows the regulations of it. From the same year the regulation on the international carriage of dangerous goods by railway (RID) which are those of the annexes of the "Agreement on International Railway Transport" (COTIF) were applied in Lithuania. At present, the procedure on carriage of goods by road and railway which is harmonized according to EU Directive 94/55/EC and 96/49/EC, is under preparation.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Agriculture.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** In 1995, a study-visit of specialists from MEP and MH to different Swedish institutional organizations (governmental and NGOs) related to environment, health and control of chemicals, took place. In 1996 seminars, conducted by Swedish experts, were held in Lithuania for agriculture specialists, covering the laws in Sweden and EU and its application in practice. In the Ministry of Agriculture the seminar was held in order to introduce to our specialists the procedure for registration of pesticides in Sweden and EU. The training of managers, inspectors and controllers, dealing with dangerous goods, was performed according to the PHARE programme.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS); International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (UNEP/IRPTC); National Chemical Inspectorate, Sweden.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 20: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Very high

STATUS REPORT:

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was approved by the Government (Order No. 1407 of 28 11 1996) and passed to the Parliament for ratification in December 1996.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The main information on waste production is collected from enterprises by the established order according to submitted reports. Each year, the Ministry of Environmental Protection receives such information from approximately 1,660 enterprises in the Republic. According to the data from 1995, 150 t tones of hazardous waste were produced, 70% of which accumulated in industry. There is no waste incineration plant in Lithuania. A very small part of hazardous materials is recycled (7%), others are disposed at the territory of facilities. Part of the hazardous waste which should be incinerated (e.g. solid paint, varnishes waste, etc.) is disposed in the landfills of domestic waste. There are more than 800 dumping sites in Lithuania. The biggest part of oil products waste and other flammable hazardous waste are incinerated in thermal power plants. Luminescent bulbs are exported to Latvia (in 1995 export was 264 t units) and batteries are exported to Estonia. Radioactive waste is stored in Ignalina NPP storage. Measures for reduction of hazardous waste accumulation: improvement of technological processes in enterprises and introduction of low waste technologies.

The Lithuanian Government approved the Programme of Hazardous Waste Management in Lithuania in February 1993 which envisages a centralised hazardous waste collection, transportation and processing system with central hazardous waste incineration, physical-chemical treatment and deposition plant. The main elements of the waste strategy are laid out in the Environmental Strategy of the Republic of Lithuania which was adopted by the Government in 1996.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Management of hazardous waste is under responsibility of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The Waste Management Act was approved by the Government and submitted to the Parliament. Regulations on hazardous waste management are in preparation. At present almost all former Soviet Union waste management acts exist in Lithuania. After the Act of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania the following legal documents have been adopted:

I. Hazardous waste storage sites' selection conditions (adopted by the common Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Health of 10 June 1992);

II. According to the Act of Environmental Protection, Article 23, import of waste to the Republic of Lithuania for storage, treatment and dumping is prohibited;

III. Waste management planning and organization will be introduced after the Act on Waste Management will be adopted. At present fees and claims are applied for municipal and hazardous waste management order violations.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No specific information.

3. Major Groups: No information.

4. Finance: The Ministry of Industry and Trade is constantly seeking for financial resources both in Lithuania and foreign countries to implement the Waste Management Programme. In 1996, there were 500,000 litas (aprox. US$120,000) allocated from the State budget for construction of waste management facilities. A grant of US$1.33 mln. is expected from PHARE funds.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: In order to strengthen the control and monitoring of transboundary movements of hazardous waste, Lithuania's Government approved the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and submitted it to Parliament for ratification.

The special EU directives on waste will mainly be implemented through Government Decisions under the Waste Management Act.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Generation of hazardous waste (t)				
Import of hazardous wastes (t)				
Export of hazardous wastes (t)				
Area of land contaminated by hazardous waste (km^2)				
Expenditure on hazardous waste treatment (US$)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTES AND SEWAGE-RELATED ISSUES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	Very high	
STATUS REPORT: The main information on waste production is collected from enterprises by established order according to submitted reports. Each year, the Ministry of Environmental Protection receives such information from approximately 1,600 enterprises in the Republic. According to the data from 1995, 1.55 mln. tones of municipal and non-hazardous waste were produced in the enterprises of the Republic. There are 5 paper recycling enterprises, 2 glass recycling enterprises, 3 compost grounds (2 in Vilnius and 1 in Kaunas) in Lithuania. There are more than 800 dumping sites in Lithuania. During 1994-1995 tons of plastic raw material, 100 tons of waste paper and 3000 tons of glass waste was imported to Lithuania. Secondary material can be imported only under permission of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and after comprehensive study of expediency of secondary material import and technical possibilities of their recycling. There is a secondary raw material programme adopted by the Government in 1994. The main elements of the waste strategy are laid out in the Environmental Strategy of the Republic of Lithuania which was recently approved by the Parliament (Decree No. I-1550 of 25 September 1996).		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministry of Industry and Trade is primarily responsible for waste management. Non-hazardous industrial and municipal waste are managed by local authorities.

The Act on Waste Management is submitted to the Parliament for adoption. At present almost all former Soviet Union waste management acts are in use in Lithuania. After the restoration of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania the following legal documents have been adopted:

Solid municipal waste dumping site selection conditions (adopted by the general order of the Ministries of Environmental Protection and Health Protection from 18th of March, 1992).

According to the Act of Environmental Protection, Article 23, import of waste to the Republic of Lithuania for storage, treatment and dumping is prohibited.

Waste management planning and organisation will be introduced after the Act on Waste Management will be adopted. At present fees and claims are applied for municipal and hazardous waste management order violations.

Measures to prevent waste generation: in 1994, selection of secondary materials from residents was introduced using special containers when collected material are sold for enterprises.

Environmentally sound waste disposal is related with modernisation of existing landfills. There are some modernisation projects going on in Lithuania, e.g. on Kaunas landfill where a monitoring system was already established in 1994.

Sludge is disposed in a special landfill. The technique appears to be very expensive, therefore, it is very important to reduce volumes of sludge by introducing best available techniques.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No information.

3. Major Groups: No information.

4. Finance: In 1996, there were 500 000 Lt. (aprox. US$425,000) allocated from the State budget to implement the secondary raw material programme.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS					
	1992	1993	1994	1995	
Generation of industrial and municipal waste (mill.t)	17.7	5.42	6.37	4.64	
Municipal waste only (mill. t)	1.52	1.866	1.67	1.55	
Waste disposed(Kg/capita)					
Waste recycling rates (%)				3	
Municipal waste disposal (Kg/capita)	411	504	452	418	
Other data					

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 22: SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	Very high	

STATUS REPORT: To date in Lithuania there are the following sources of radioactive wastes: Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, research, hospital and industrial wastes and illegal radioactive shipments.

The main source of radioactive wastes is Ignalina NPP which generates over 99% of the total amount of wastes.

Radioactive wastes are stored in two radioactive wastes storages, one of them was closed in 1989 awaiting an assessment of long-term safety. The assessment terms are being negotiated with the Swedish company SKB.

Since 1989, all radioactive wastes are taken to the storage at Ignalina NPP. There, wastes are sorted into three groups: solid wastes, bitumen containing concentrations and ionic resins. In 1996, the Lithuanian Ministry of Energy signed an agreement with the Swedish Company SKB for the assessment of storage safety of solid wastes and bitumen containing concentrations.

To date a storage for spent fuel is being designed. Spent fuel will be stored in special containers to keep it for 50 years.

In recent years, legislation has been adopted for the regulation of radioactive wastes management, among them: Environmental Protection Law (supplemented in 1996); Decree on the Radioactive Wastes Import, Export, Transit, Registering, Handling, Storing and Dumping Order (1992); Decree on Radioactive Wastes Illegal Import, Transit, Storing, Handling and Dumping (1995); Decree on the Order of Rendering Harmless of Illegal Radioactive Substances and Objects Contaminated with them (1995).

At present, Licensing Rules are being developed for undertaking activities related with the transportation, handling, etc. of radioactive and nuclear substances or their wastes.

By the year 2000, the Radiation Safety Law will be developed as well as the needed subordinate legislation to the existing laws.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Responsibility for activities related to radioactive substances and their wastes is shared by several institutions. The Environmental Protection Ministry controls transportation of radioactive substances and equipment containing radioactive substances, it is also responsible for organising radioactive wastes management at the national level. The Ministry of Health establishes the order for the use of radioactive substances and other ionising radiation sources. Transportation, handling and waste management of nuclear and radioactive substances which are used in nuclear energetics is organised by VATESI (State Nuclear Safety Inspectorate).

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: No information.

3. Major Groups: No information.

4. Finance: According to the Lithuanian Republic legislation, radioactive wastes management is the responsibility of users.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: In 1996, the Energy Ministry and the Ministry of Environmental Protection signed agreements with the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company for the period 1996-1997 on the radioactive wastes management plan in Lithuania which is aimed at long-term safety assessment of existing radioactive wastes storages and their safe operation.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS 23-32: MAJOR GROUPS

The role of major groups are also covered under the various chapters of Agenda 21. The following is a summary of main objectives outlined in Agenda 21. Please check the appropriate boxes and describe briefly any important steps or obstacles.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 24: GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was signed in 1994 and ratified in 1995.

24.a Increasing the proportion of women decision makers.

From 1994 to 1996, the percentage of women in government increased from 0% to 11.1% and in Parliament from 7.1% to 17.5%. The percentage of women at the local government level was 19.4% in 1996.

24.b assessing, reviewing, revising and implementing curricula and other educational material with a view to promoting dissemination of gender-relevant knowledge.

No action has been taken yet.

24.c and 24.d formulating and implementing policies, guidelines, strategies and plans for achievement of equality in all aspects of society including issuing a strategy by year 2000 to eliminate obstacles to full participation of women in sustainable development.

Policies/strategies etc. are being drawn up

24.e establishing mechanisms by 1995 to assess implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women

Mechanisms are being developed.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

On 8 November 1996, the Lithuanian Program for the Advancement of Women was approved by the Government. This Program includes strategies in following areas: Protection of Women's Human Rights, Economic and Social Status of Women, Women and Environment, Women's Health and Family Planning, Women and Education, Women in Politics and Decision-making, Violence against Women, Women and Mass Media, Statistical Systems and Gender Differences. The national machinery for the advancement of women comprises: Advisor on Women and Family Issues to the Government, Commission on Women Issues and Women's NGOs.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 25: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

25.a establishing processes that promote dialogue between the youth and government at all levels and mechanisms that permit youth access to information and opportunity to present their views on implementing A21.

At present there are many possibilities for dialogue between the youth and government at all levels. Unfortunately sometimes youth is not very active in the process of national activities and development.

Describe their role in the national process:

25.b reducing youth unemployment

25.c ensuring that by year 2000 more than 50% of youth -- gender balanced -- have access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No further information.

Ch. 26: RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

26.a establishing a process to empower indigenous people and their communities -- through policies and legal instruments:

26.b strengthening arrangements for active participation in national policies

26.c involving indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes at the national and local level.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No applicable.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 27: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

27.a developing mechanisms that allow NGOs to play their partnership role responsibly and effectively.

27.b reviewing formal procedures and mechanisms to involve NGOs in decision making and implementation.

In 1995, a meeting was held between the Environmental Protection Ministry and NGOs where a letter of intention was signed which later served as a basis for cooperation agreements with NGOs. As a result, in 1995 the Public Relations and Education Division of the Environmental Protection Ministry started to release the Information Bulletin providing information about orders of the Ministry, decisions of the Ministry College, orders and regulations of the Government under preparation, about programmes, upcoming workshops, conferences, recent publications, etc. NGOs also have made commitments to provide information on planned or on-going projects as well as about informational issues, etc. Also there is an increasing number of common projects.

Heads and specialists of the Ministry are taking active part in actions organised by NGOs. NGOs and their specialists are involved in implementation of the environmental projects as well as in drafting regulations or other legal acts.

27.c promoting and allowing NGOs to participate in the conception, establishment and evaluation of official mechanisms to review Agenda 21 implementation.

NGO inputs are rated important.

27.d establishing a mutually productive dialogue by 1995 at the national level between NGOs and governments.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

Currently there is a total of 80 NG environmental organisations of different levels (state, district, city, local). The following environmental NGOs are most actively participating in the process of implementing sustainable development:

1. Green Movement of Lithuania, 2. Lithuanian Fund for Nature, 3. Karst Region Fund"Tatula", 4. Lithuanian Fund of Nature Photography, 5. Support Center for Non-governmental Organisations(NOSA), 6. "Radiati", 7. Non-profit Political-public Movement ("Support to Fatherland"), 8. Lithuanian Association of Engineering Ecology, 9. Non-profit Organisation "Green Lithuania", 10. Lithuanian Association of Organic Biological Agriculture in Lithuania "Gaja", 11. Lithuanian Society "Þinija"("Knowledge"), 12. Lithuanian Society of Hunting and Fishing, 13. Lithuanian Society of Animal Protection, 14. Lithuanian Society of Ecologists, 15. Lithuanian Society of Theriologists, 16. Lithuanian Society of Hydrobiologists, 17. Lithuanian Society of Dendrologists, 18. Lithuanian Society of Geographers, 19. Lithuanian Society of Nature, 20. Vilnius Nature Protection Society, 21. Lithuanian Society of Biologists, 23. Ecological Education Center, 24. The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe(REC), 25. Non-profit Enterprise "Project of Healthy City in Vilnius", 26. Coalition Clean Baltic for Lithuania, 27. Lithuanian Association of Adult Education, 28. Lithuanian Society of Ornithologists, 29. International council for Studies of Drinking Water in Farmlands, 30. The Society of Oak-tree Lovers"Oak-wood", 31. Movement of Universal Ecology "Santalka", 32. Lithuanian Unit of Foresters, 33. Society for Andronment of Lithuania, 34. Ecological Education Center of Ðiauiai", 35. Society for Sea-coast Environment.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 28: LOCAL AUTHORITIES' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21.

28.a encouraging local authorities to implement and monitor programmes that aim to ensure participation of women and youth in local decision making.

To date there are not particular local Agendas 21 in Lithuania. Only programs of activities of local governments are created according to the recommendations of Agenda 21.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

See also chapter 27.

Ch. 29: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS.

29.a full participation of workers in implementation and evaluation of A21.

29.b (By year 2000, (a) promoting ratification of ILO conventions; (b) establishing bipartite and tripartite mechanism on safety, health and sustainable development; (c) increasing number of environmental collective agreements; (d) reducing occupational accidents and injuries; (e) increasing workers' education and training efforts.

Workers are participating in the implementation of Agenda 21.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

See chapter 27.

30: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

30.a increasing the efficiency of resource use, including reuse, recycling, and reduction of waste per unit of economic output.

There are governmental policies requiring recycling and encouraging the above objectives.

30.b encouraging the concept of stewardship in management and use of natural resources by entrepreneurs.

List any actions taken in this area:

Reducing the amount of waste and recycling of materials have become major goals. The main information on waste production is collected from enterprises by the established order according to submitted reports. Each year the Ministry of Environmental Protection receives such information from approximately 1,600 enterprises in the country. There are 5 paper recycling enterprises and 2 glass recycling enterprises in Lithuania.

Efficiency of energy consumption has been promoted by raising its price. Water and air pollution have been reduced substantially by both improvements in processing techniques as well as by cleaning emissions.

The main focus in the development of environmental taxes have been placed upon the imposition of environmental pollution fees and taxes for the use of natural resources.

Particularly successful actions in the field of promoting ecological ways of production have been:

- financial incentives, subsidies, taxation, charges and return systems for recoverable goods on an environmental basis,
- the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, adopted by the Parliament in 1996,
- environmental management,
- National Environmental Strategy and Action Programme, adopted by the Parliament in 1996,
- the new Waste Act, approved by the Government and presented to the Parliament for adoption.

30.c increasing number of enterprises that subscribe to and implement sustainable development policies.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No further comments.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 31: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY.

31.a improving exchange of knowledge and concerns between s&t community and the general public.

Not much has changed in this area.

31.b developing, improving and promoting international acceptance of codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology and its role in reconciling environment and development.

Brief comments on this chapter not already described in chapter 35 (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

See chapter 35.

Ch. 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS.

32.a promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices and technologies.

32.b developing a policy framework that provides incentives and motivation among farmers for sustainable and efficient farming practices.

32.c enhancing participation of organizations of farmers in design and implementation of sustainable development policies.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

According to the regulations adopted by the Government, the Ministry of Agriculture is authorized to formulate an agricultural and food industry development strategy and a scientific-technical, technological and investment policy. These functions also include the formulation and implementation of long-term sustainable agricultural development programmes. A number of NGOs, such as Lithuanian Agricultural Chamber, Farmers' Support Fund, Association of Agricultural Companies, Association of Agricultural Co-operatives, Association of Processing Industry and Service have been involved in formulation and implementation of the Agricultural Policy.

As a result of the privatization policy in agriculture, the number of farmers is constantly in rise. At the same time the farmers' influence in formulation and implementation of the policy of sustainable agricultural development have been increased. The Farmers Support Fund established by the Government of Lithuania in 1992 provides assistance to new farmers and their groups in the matter of road building, construction of electricity lines, digging of artesian wells, to purchase better equipment, fertilizers of higher quality, etc.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Financial resources and mechanisms are also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national financial policies, domestic and external (including ODA)

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The Lithuanian Environmental Strategy is aimed at preconditioning the country's sustainable development to allow the preservation of a clean and healthy natural environment, biological and landscape diversity and optimal nature use. In attaining environmental strategy goals, economic instruments are necessary to encourage pollution minimisation and prevention, waste minimisation and preservation of natural resources. Economic instruments encompass taxes on state natural resources; pollution charges; user charges; tax waivers; tax differentiation; subsidies, loans and funds. Implementation of environmental protection measures will be very much dependent upon the availability of financial resources. The majority of environmental investments are allocated from State Budget. Another sources are loans and subsidies from foreign countries and international donor organisations, municipal funds and companies own resources. The current system of granting subsidies to municipal institutions does not encourage environmental projects' implementation, therefore, it is necessary to develop a more effective mechanism for granting funds. Efforts should be made to change the currently existing system when all tax payers via State Budget cover costs of users/polluters to a system when users/polluters directly cover the losses incurred by their activities' impact upon the environment. It would be consistent with the "polluter pays" principle. In order to provide incentives for waste and pollution minimisation and to accumulate additional funds, the Environmental Investment Fund was established. It is aimed at providing additional funds to cover economically feasible cost for resource saving or industrial pollution minimisation on projects. After project implementation, revenues would be used to repay loans to the environmental investment fund thus revolving and increasing it.

CHANGES IN NATIONAL BUDGET TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

NEW ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:

ELIMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY SUBSIDIES:

In case of subsidies of environmental protection the basic principle is to support environmental research, monitoring, preparation of legal documents and programmes. Construction of waste water treatment plants is also subsidized from the national budget. EU requirements for governmental subsidies shall be taken into account.

The financial fund established by the Government to support the karst region programme for the development of ecological agriculture and to stimulate environmentally sound agriculture production is being implemented.

There are no major subsidies both in the transport and in the energy sectors to improve environmental issues.

The new Governmental policy towards EU integration foresees the possibility to review Governmental subsidies including the elimination of environmentally unfriendly subsidies.

The main environmental financing sources and revenues from the environmental taxes

Financing sources	Resources, allocated to environmental protection		
	1993	1994	1995
Municipalities' environmental protection funds (56 municipalities)	3.495	13.043	17.500
State environmental protection fund	-	-	1.248
State Budget resources	36.25	95.925	100.58
Total	39.745	108.968	119.328
Investments of foreign capital (thous. US$)	30792 (grants)		61779.2 (loans)

Sources of revenue	1993	1994	1995
Taxes on state natural resources	9.363	18.198	18.878
Pollution charges	7.673	19.685	32.405

Expenditure for environment protection

Expenditure for environment protection measures	1993	1994
Current expenses	96285.8	158023.2
Water resource protection	71016.4	118991.6
Free air protection	19876.6	31697.3
Land protection from pollution with industrial waste	5013.4	4979.9
Land recultivation	379.4	2354.3
Reserves, national parks and preserves maintenance expenses	3886.0	6909.0
Bioengineering measures designed to preserve flora and fauna	113.8	202.6
Expenditure for overhaul repairs of basic environment protection fixed productive assets	10164.3	14014.1
Capital investments in environment protection	59408[1]	120233[1]

[1] - Capital investments in environment protection at current prices.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building is also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national policies and actions relating to chapter 34.

NATIONAL PRIORITY: High

STATUS REPORT ON LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS/SYSTEMS:

In transfer of experience and technology cooperation between business in Western Countries and Lithuania, some initiatives have already been taken. They cover both, process and product technologies for the prevention of pollution and also "end of pipe" technologies for treatment of pollution after it has been generated. Introducing environmental auditing is probably the most prime example of recent practical and cost effective initiatives.

In 1995, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Lithuania issued the normative document "The Order on Environmental Labelling of Products" (No 81 of 15 May 1995) on the basis of EEC Regulation No 880/92 (23/05/1992) on a Community eco-labelling award scheme. By this environmental measure the Ministry of Environmental Protection attempts to:

stimulate designing, production, marketing and use of products with less impact to the environment during the whole life-cycle, and provide information about the environmental impact of products to users;

create favourable circumstances to products made in Lithuania in the EU market and other countries, as well as to limit hazardous products, beverages and pharmaceutical preparates, medicines.

The new organizational structure to organize eco-labelling in Lithuania was established in the beginning of 1996 by the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

• Describe any work being undertaken at the national or local level regarding efforts to promote clean production processes and/or the concepts of eco-efficiency. These processes may include training, preferential financial arrangements, information dissemination and changes in legal or regulatory frameworks.

UNEP agencies such as the Industry and Environmental Office (UNEP IE) in Paris and UNEP IETC in Japan, international institutions such as HELCOM and UN ECE and other organizations as USA EPA and Danish EPA on the basis of bilateral agreements are helping to exchange experiences, building up technology, assessment capacities and developing existing national information networks.

• Provide information on the adoption of environmental management systems. National reaction to environmental management system standards such as the ISO 14000 Series and others. Please note efforts made at the national level to promote their adoption and the creation of certification infrastructure in order to facilitate access to these standards to local industry.

In the end of 1995, the Technical Committee for Standardization No 36 "Environmental Protection" was established. The efforts of this Committee is focused on the adoption and implementation of ISO Standards in several areas, including environmental management systems (ISO 14001,14004), environmental auditing (ISO 14010-14012), environmental labelling (ISO 14020,14021 and 14024), environmental performance evaluation (ISO 14031) and environmental life cycle assessment (ISO 14040-14043).

In December of 1996, the Lithuanian national standard "Environmental Management System. Terms and Definitions" prepared on the basis of the British Standard BS 7750: 1992 "Specification for Environmental Management System" was adopted.

• List and describe programs or work under way to facilitate the transfer of ESTs to small and medium sized enterprises. Please note efforts to facilitate access to financial resources and other transfer strategies.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has developed a National Environmental Strategy (NES) for Lithuania with PHARE support. One of the main principles of the NES is the Use of Best Available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Costs (BATNEEC). For the implementation of NES the Environmental Investment Fund was created. Other projects to transfer of EST's are:

1. Danish project: "Implementation of Demonstration Projects in Cleaner Technology in the Lithuanian Galvanic Industry";
2. PHARE project: "Strengthening Water Utilities Management";
3. Norwegian project: "Capacity Building Program in Cleaner Production in Industry in the Baltic Region;
4. The Danish EPA project "Environmental Efficiency in the Lithuanian Food Processing Industry". The Project involved environmental auditing in 7 companies from different food industry sectors of Lithuania.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY: High

STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES:

The State research programs are funded by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and by some other ministries for sectoral research programmes and stimulation of sustainable development. Very important are activities according to the Lithuanian Environmental Strategy, and the Lithuanian National Programme for Implementation of FCCC. Examination of environmental research carried out by state funded universities and research institutes to identify areas not covered by existing programmes and those which partly overlap, awarding of state funds to universities and research institutions for environmental research on the basis of open competitive tendering and submission of project proposals is also important and necessary. Worthy of attention are two programmes to promote sustainable development, i.e. "Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant and the Environment" and "Ecological Sustainability of Regional Development in a Historical Perspective: Lithuanian Case Studies"; they are being implemented at present.

In Lithuania environmental and sustainable development research is being carried out mainly in Kaunas University of Technology, Vilnius Technical University, Vilnius University and State research institutes such as Institute of Botany, Institute of Ecology, Institute of Physics, etc.

Lithuanian priorities of national policy for R&D are the following:

- internationally recognized research in various fields of science carried out by world well known Lithuanian scientists and groups of scientists under their supervision,
- research involved in international research programs,
- applied research vitally important for the Lithuanian society and the development of economy which is carried out within the frame work of the State economy and development programs,
- research necessary to keep the high level of the main fields of science and to foster the culture of science,
- fundamental and applied research in the field of Lithuanian language, culture, history and nature.

STEPS TAKEN TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING, IMPROVE LONG TERM SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT, BUILDING OF CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY:

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
	1993	1995	
Total R&D staff	14,230	13,632	
Total R&D expenses (thous. US$)	11,680.4	28,729.6	
Total (% of the GDP)	0,43	0,48	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	High	

STATUS REPORT: Higher education in Lithuania is regulated by the Law on Research and Higher Education of the Republic of Lithuania adopted in 1991. Most important decisions are taken by the Seimas or the Government in coordination with the Science Council of Lithuania. The Science Council is a self-governing institution of science and education, an expert in the organisation and financing of science and education. On 14 October 1993 the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved "The Qualifying Regulations of Higher Education" and "The Regulations for the Establishment and Assessment of Institutions of Higher Education" which state qualitative requirements for the study curricula and institutions of higher education. The legal foundation of the system of education is going to be improved (it is planned to adopt new laws on vocational training, specialised training, adult education, higher education etc.). The activities within the framework of research and technological development is guided by the Seimas, the Parliamentary Committee of Science and Culture, the Parliamentary Committee of Agriculture and the Parliamentary Committee of Economy. The Confederation of Industrialists and the Lithuanian Chamber of Trade, Industry and Crafts provide consultations on the issues of research and technological development. The Ministry of Education and Science jointly with the United Nations Development Programme and the Lithuanian Joint Stock Innovation Bank have established the Lithuanian Innovation Centre. Several state higher education institutions, ministries and the Labour Exchange, in view of the demand on the part of employers and employees, have established re-training courses.

Increasing Environmental Education and Public Awareness: The projects helping to integrate environmental education into the schools at different levels as well as the organisation of environmental education for adults mostly are implemented by the common efforts of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science and other concerned ministries, public organisations and municipalities. Taking into account that the tasks of sustainable development can be solved only by well-trained and high-qualified specialists, the higher schools of Lithuania have begun to prepare the specialists of environmental protection, environmental research, applied ecology and other. The Lithuanian Committee on Public Environmental Education, Awareness and Training is established at the Environmental Protection Ministry, the members of which represent different ministries, public organisations, research institutions, municipalities etc. The draft of conception on environmental education of Lithuanian public is under preparation. The ad hoc Working Group is working according to Agenda 21.

Role of Major Groups: (see above). There are several scientific centres of particular interest to environment and development, for instance the "Pollution Prevention Centre" at Kaunas University of Technology, the "Environmental Study Centre" at Vilnius University, the "Environmental Protection Engineering Centre" at Vilnius Gedimino Technology University.

Finance: Every year the Seimas approves the State budget, allocations for research and higher education are envisaged. The Government upon recommendation of the Ministry of Education and Science and the Council of Science allocates funds directly to research and higher education institutions and research and higher education infrastructure. Funds from the state budget are allocated for the preparation and implementation of public programmes.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS					
	1980	1990	1993	1994	1995
Adult literacy rate (%) Male	99.8*	99.7**	-	-	-
Adult literacy rate (%) Female	99.8*	99.8**	-	-	-
% of GNP spent on education	-	4.8	-	-	5.7
Females per 100 males in secondary school	-	201	-	-	155
Women per 100 men in the labour force	-	-	110	100	101
Number of studying young people as composed to certain age groups:					
from 7 to 10 age	-	-	93.5	94.1	94.9
from 11 to 15 age	-	-	89.1	89.1	90.8
from 16 to 18 age	-	-	72.0	73.5	76.2
Total: from 7 to 24 age			64.0	64.9	66.9

* data of 1979 general census of the population

** data of 1989 general census of the population

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

National capacity building is also covered under sectoral chapters.

Donors: You may wish to describe here how Agenda 21 has influenced your ODA policies in this area.

Developing countries: You may wish to describe any new national mechanisms for capacity building - and any changes in technical cooperation.

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING:

Lithuania is one of the countries in transition with plenty of problems after 50 years of the Sovjet occupation including difficulties in capacity-building. Although there is a rather good training and education system in Lithuania, the donor-countries, particularly the neighbour countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland) are providing important assistance in the capacity-building in various sectors and institutions. Ministries and other institutions have now local area PC networks and connection to Internet. Training courses, seminars and workshops are organized according to bilateral international cooperation agreements.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ch. 38: Brief summary of any particular UN System response affecting this country/state:

Lithuania is not able to provide grant funds for sustainable development.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Ch. 39: International Legal Instruments are covered under the relevant sectoral chapters. This is a listing of major agreements/conventions (not already covered) entered into and relevant to Agenda 21:

Lithuania is not able to provide any not already covered international legal instruments/conventions relevant to Agenda 21.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This chapter is also covered under sectoral and other chapters of this profile. The matrix below gives an overview of how national authorities rate the available information for decision making.

Rating of available data and information suitable for decision-making

Agenda 21 Chapters		Very good	Good	Some good data but many gaps	Poor	Remarks
2.	International cooperation and trade		x			
3.	Combating poverty			x		
4.	Changing consumption patterns			x		
5.	Demographic dynamics and sustainability	x				
6.	Human health		x			
7.	Human settlements		x			
8.	Integrating E & D in decision-making			x		
9.	Protection of the atmosphere		x			
10.	Integrated planning and management of land resources			x		
11.	Combating deforestation		x			
12.	Combating desertification and drought					n.a.
13.	Sustainable mountain development					n.a.
14.	Sustainable agriculture and rural development			x		
15.	Conservation of biological diversity		x			
16.	Biotechnology			x		
17.	Oceans, seas, coastal areas and their living resources		x			
18.	Freshwater resources		x			
19.	Toxic chemicals	x				
20.	Hazardous wastes		x			
21.	Solid wastes		x			
22.	Radioactive wastes	x				
24.	Women in sustainable development			x		
25.	Children and youth			x		
26.	Indigenous people					n.a.
27.	Non-governmental organizations		x			
28.	Local authorities	x				
29.	Workers and trade unions			x		
30.	Business and industry				x	
31.	Scientific and technological community		x			
32.	Farmers				x	
33.	Financial resources and mechanisms		x			
34.	Technology, cooperation and capacity-building		x			
35.	Science for sustainable development			x		
36.	Education, public awareness and training		x			
37.	International cooperation for capacity-building			x		
38.	International institutional arrangements			x		
39.	International legal instruments		x			
40.	Information for decision-making		x			

Additional Comments
No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1980	1993	Latest 199-	
Number of telephones in use per 100 inhabitants				
Other data				